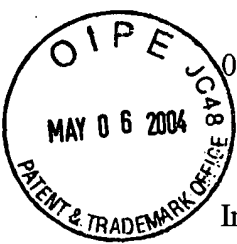


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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
AKIHIKO NODA)
Application No.: 09/579,503)
Filed: May 30, 2000)
For: PRINTING METHOD)
HAVING AUTO RETREAT)
FUNCTION OF PRINT)
DATA AND MEDIUM FOR)
STORING PROGRAM FOR)
EXECUTING THE)
PRINTING METHOD)

Examiner: J. Foster
Group Art Unit: 2624

May 3, 2004

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Technology Center 2600

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicant respectfully directs the Examiner's attention to the documents listed below and on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. A copy of each of the documents listed is enclosed.

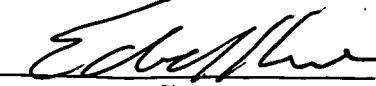
U. S. Patent No. 6,144,457
Japan 07-223341

05/07/2004 HTECKLU1 00000009 09579503
02 FC:1806 180.00 0P

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on

May 3, 2004
(Date of Deposit)

Edward A. Kmett (Reg. No. 42,746)
(Name of Attorney for Applicant)



Signature Date of Signature
May 3, 2004

It is noted that an English language translation for the foregoing Japanese document is enclosed for the Examiner's consideration. The concise explanation of relevance for the non-English language document is believed to be satisfied by the enclosed translation. See MPEP 609.

The subject application has received an Office Action on the merits but has not yet received a final action, a Notice Of Allowance, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution on the merits. Accordingly, this Information Disclosure Statement is filed under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c) and is accompanied by the \$180.00 fee specified at 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p). Consideration of the art cited herein is accordingly deemed proper, and such action is respectfully requested. Additionally, the Examiner is requested to indicate that this information has been considered by initialing the appropriate portion of Form PTO-1449 and returning the initialed form to Applicant with the next communication.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 42,746

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